

NSC BRIEFING

5 February 1957

INDONESIA

- I.. Little concrete to report: Ali cabinet staggers on. Confidence vote now set for 9 February.
 - A. Two Christian parties restive, may soon withdraw.
 - B. Ali already reported inviting Communist sympathizers to join government; may turn to outright Communists.
- II. Palembang conference between chief-of-staff and Sumatran dissidents reportedly has found basis settlement Sumatran problem.
 - A. Simbolon present in wings.
 - B. However, successful settlement still problematical.
- III. Sukarno continues appeals for mass support of his plan for "guided democracy."

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INDONESIA

- I. Little concrete progress in Indonesian troubles: Ali cabinet continues to stagger on, with seven of its 25 seats vacant.
 - A. Parliamentary vote of confidence now expected 9 February.
 - B. During past week, Ali has held discussions on major cabinet reshuffle, while keeping watchful eye both on conference of army leaders in Sumatra and on President Sukarno.
 - C. Christian Party (Protestants--2 seats) says if reshuffle is not completed by 15 February, it will withdraw: Catholic Party (2 seats) also restive.
 1. Ali already reported inviting "national" communists of Commie-influenced "National Progressive Faction" to join cabinet.
 2. When and if two Christian parties withdraw, he may also approach "Reconstruction Faction" (composed of "independents" elected on Communist Party ticket).
- II. Conference between Army Chief of Staff Nasution and dissident Sumatran army officers in Palembang (24-31 Jan) reportedly laid basis for settlement, but actual solution appears still problematical.
 - A. Top Sumatran dissident, Col. Simbolon, came to Palembang, but stayed behind scenes.
 - B. No indication Sumatran leaders willing to surrender autonomy they now exercise, except on terms Djakarta government thusfar unwilling to grant.

III. Meanwhile, Sukarno continues his appeal, over heads of political parties, for Indonesian "guided democracy" administered through an "advisory council."

- A. Has called on ~~to~~ youth and veterans' groups (many strongly pro-Communist), set up a new organization called the "1945 Generation" to help enlist mass support.
- B. Sukarno has promised to make details of his plans public later this month, but exact timing will depend on "factors that might develop in the meantime."